

ADE will continue to add to this list of questions and answers as they are completed.

APPEALS

Question:

Will all appeals be completed by the Sept. 28th public release date? Thank you!

Answer :

The outcomes of AZ LEARNS Legacy appeals submitted to the Research & Evaluation division (R&E) will be included in the final calculation of the Legacy profiles that will be made public on September 28th. Because the 2011 A-F letter grades are considered transitional information for schools in 2011, there were no appeals necessary for the letter grades this year.

TECHNICAL MANUALS

Questions:

Will the Technical Manual "released this fall" be available in early fall? Say, before the public release?

Answer: A first draft of the 2011 A-F Accountability Profile Technical manual will be made available on November 1st, 2011.

TIMELINES FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

Question:

Why are we being educated about this 5 months after the AIMS has been administered?

Answer:

Accountability profiles are always calculated after the AIMS test is administered. The State Board of Education adopted the final A-F model in June 2011 which compressed the usual timeframe to calculate school profiles. ADE provided webinars and workshops describing the differences between AZ Learns Legacy and A-F in the summer. In addition, district and charter schools were given additional time to submit data corrections in order to incorporate the most accurate data in the final AZ LEARNS Legacy and A-F profiles.

Question:

Is there any way to push up the public release date of the labels in future years?

Answer:

ADE's objective is to release subsequent state and federal school profiles simultaneously by mid-July, while still providing schools/districts with ample time to review their preliminary profiles prior to public release each July.

USE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER (ELL) DATA

Question:

Why are you using 2009-2010 (FY 2010) ELL data? This does not represent progress during 2011 school year.

Answer:

Currently, FY 2010 ELL data is included because it has been verified for accuracy and considered valid for accountability purposes. ADE is evaluating whether to incorporate FY 2011 ELL data in the final A-F and AZ LEARNS Legacy calculations contingent upon verifying the accuracy of the FY2011 data.

CALCULATIONS

Question:

How does AYP enter into these labels?

Answer:

AYP is not used for the A-F profiles

Question:

Is the bottom quartile based on a state-wide bottom quartile or does each school have its own bottom quartile?

Answer:

The "bottom 25%" of students is pulled separately for each school based on the students' prior year achievement. Once those students are identified, their student growth percentile (SGP) is ranked and the median taken for that particular group. This is labeled as "Median Percentile Rank – Bottom 25%" on the Common Logon.

Question:

How are the two different growth medians (All & Bottom Quartile) combined to form the growth composite?

Answer:

These two items (i.e., Median Percentile Rank – All Students and Median Percentile Rank – Bottom 25%) are averaged for a school's growth score. This is labeled as "Average Percentile Rank – All Students" on the Common Logon. For example: If the Median Percentile Rank – All Students = 47 and the Median Percentile Rank – Bottom 25% = 52; then the Average Percentile Rank – All Students = 50 (rounded).

Question:

Is the "all students" compared to the state of Arizona at a particular grade level?

Answer:

The "all students" component is comprised of the students from the particular school they attend. The school's students are pulled together and rank ordered according to their student growth percentile (SGP) for Mathematics and Reading. The median from the rank ordering for Mathematics and Reading are averaged for the "Median Percentile Rank – All Students." For example: If the Median Percentile Rank – Mathematics = 46 and the Median Percentile Rank – Reading = 41; then the Median Percentile Rank – All Students = 44 (rounded).

Question:

Why are we providing a "bonus" category for ELL, but not other category students - special education?

Answer:

The ELL Bonus Points were added to fulfill state statute requirements. Bonus points for the special education population are a consideration that we will discuss with the State board for future years as a result of this input.

Question:

In the calculation of the composite score, how important is the number of exceeding students?

Answer:

The composite score is comprised of the percentage of students who met and exceeded AIMS in the current school year, so obviously the number exceeding AIMS is very important.

Question:

Will there be another calculation of the data?

Answer:

Yes. The final calculation of data for AZ Learns legacy and A-F Profiles will be conducted after the statewide recalculation and integrity have been run. These tasks ensure that all changes requested by schools have been addressed. The public release is scheduled for September 28, 2011.

Question:

For the growth calculation, are you only compared to your students at your school last year? Is there no comparison to say all 5th graders statewide?

Answer:

The growth calculation of a student growth percentile (SGP) is based on the academic growth for all students statewide. Each student is given a percentile rank between 1 and 99. For example, if a student's SGP is 79, this indicates that the student grew more than 79% of his or her academic peers. The percentile ranks of all students in a given school are rank ordered and used to calculate a median growth percentile by subject and grade within that school. The average of these two medians represents the median growth percentile for all students in that school and equals the number of points it would earn for the "Median Percentile Rank – All Students."